

1997-98 SESSION  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on  
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ \*\*

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ \*\*

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ \*\*

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ \*\*

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi\_Misc\_pt155-~~158~~

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ \*\*

Mrs. Myrtle Macdonald  
17 Hollywood R.  
Madison, Wi 53713

4/11/79  
608-224-4395

Wisconsin Smokers Rights

P. O. or 7483

Madison, Wi ~~XXXXX~~ 53707-7483

Re: April 16-th Hearing

I am very sorry that because of a bad back, I will not be able to attend the hearing.

I am 79 years old (1-18-1918) and have been a steady smoker for 63 years and am still alive. Even my dogs have all lived to be 16 years old. (this is their full life span for M. Sshnauzers. I have worked all my life (25 years with General Telephone of Wi and never missed a day in 25 years) I have been a widow for 29 years. lived alone live in mobile Court for 24 years and still do all my own work inside and outside.

I have a big gripe about taxing cigarettes more. For many of us old people this is our one pleasure. Also I am paying 44¢ a package and now they want \$1.00 more. When ~~they~~ they get everyone to quit what will they tax to make up for the cigarett tax loss and what will the tobacco farmers do for a living.

I have one other gripe. When I buy a carton of Cigaretts at the store why am i also taxed the .055 tax on them. Isn't it illegal to tax a tax. I have located cash register receipts which proves this point. I am already paying \$4.60 tax plus the .055 (\$1.00) which means I am already paying \$5.40 tax now. I am very concerned about paying tax on tax. This used to be illegal.

You have my permission to bring this up if it is useable. I am truly sorry that I can't be there. I will keep the sales slip from the Super Saver where I buy my cigarettes and they are at your disposal.

I hope you will be able to bring this up at the meeting. I was buying cigarettes when the were \$5 a package or 2 packages for 25¢

I have lived most of my 79 years in wisconsin and most of them in Madison. I am an old 1935 graduate of the Old Madison Central Hight.

The best of luck at the meeting

P.S. I might add I have never missed one election not even a primary

Respectfully submitted

*Myrtle T. Macdonald*  
Mrs. Myrtle T. Macdonald

cc/personal file

**SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF THE RURAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
(RED) AS PART OF DAIRY 2020, DEPT. OF  
COMMERCE BUDGET**

**TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**William T. Rockwell, Wisconsin Technical College System  
& Dairy 2020 Board Member  
April 16, 1997**

**TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE ON DAIRY 2020 BUDGET**  
**4/16/97**

- THANK-YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY. I  
  
WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A BRIEF PERIOD TESTIFYING IN FAVOR  
  
OF THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE'S PROPOSED INCREASE TO THE  
  
RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.
- MY NAME IS BILL ROCKWELL, I AM AN EDUCATIONAL  
  
CONSULTANT FOR THE WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
  
SYSTEM, I WORK WITH AND REPRESENT STATEWIDE  
  
AGRICULTURE/AGRIBUSINESS PROGRAMS IN OUR TECHNICAL  
  
COLLEGES AFFECTING OVER 4000 STUDENTS
- I AM THE WTCS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE DAIRY 2020  
  
COUNCIL

**WHY DAIRY 2020 HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE  
IMPORTANT**

- HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS,  
  
EDUCATORS, AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES IN A COLLABORATIVE  
  
ENVIRONMENT WITH A UNIFIED PURPOSE: TO ENHANCE AND  
  
REVITALIZE WISCONSIN'S ECONOMIC POSTION IN THE DAIRY  
INDUSTRY

- AGRICULTURE IS AN EXTREMELY DIVERSE INDUSTRY, WITH MANY CONSTITUENT GROUPS REPRESENTING VARIOUS FACETS OF THE INDUSTRY. DAIRY 2020 HAS BROUGHT THESE GROUPS TOGETHER AND FOCUSED ON A COMMON PURPOSE, AND I THINK HAS ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS IN ADDRESSING REAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN THE RURAL SECTOR
- FOR MAYBE THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, AGRICULTURE IS BEING TREATED AS AN EQUAL IN PUBLIC INVESTMENT VIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS. PAST PRACTICE WAS THAT "INDUSTRY" WAS ANYTHING NON-AGRICULTURAL AND THAT WAS THE FOCUS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AGRICULTURE IT WAS ASSUMED WOULD FEND FOR ITSELF.

### **IMPORTANCE OF THE RED PROGRAM**

THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL TO TREAT AGRICULTURE AS THE IMPORTANT 5.3 BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY THAT IT IS. THE ADDITION OF THE THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS TESTIMONY TO THAT COMMITMENT.

I SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE'S REQUEST FOR EXPANSION OF THE RED PROGRAM FROM \$478, 500 TO \$750,000. I CANNOT OVERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING BUSINESS START-UP INCENTIVES FOR NEW FARM OPERATORS AND THOSE THAT WANT TO EXPAND.

- THE AVERAGE AGE OF OUR FARM OPERATORS IS APPROACHING 50 AND CONTINUES TO INCREASE
- THE POOL OF YOUNG PEOPLE DESIRING FARM OWNERSHIP IS THERE, BUT MANY EXPERIENCE CONSIDERABLE BARRIERS TO BUSINESS START-UP, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE "BORN INTO" A FARM OWNERSHIP POSITION.
- THE TREMENDOUS CAPTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STARTING AND SUCCEEDING IN FARMING CREATES A GREAT NEED FOR BUSINESS START—UP INCENTIVES.
- ACCORDING TO A MAY 1995 STUDY OF DAIRY FARMERS DONE BY THE UW CENTER FOR DAIRY PROFITABILITY,

**FINANCIAL/BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING WAS  
RATED # ONE WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY THINK ARE THE  
MAJOR NEEDS FARMERS WILL HAVE TO HELP ENSURE THEY  
ARE COMPETITIVE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

**THE PROBLEM OF CAREER TRANSITIONS IN AGRICULTURE**  
A GROUP OF AG INDUSTRY AND AGENCY INDIVIDUALS HAS  
BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME ON THE PROBLEM OF FARM  
OWNERSHIP ENTRY & EXIT. DAIRY 2020 ALSO IDENTIFIED THIS  
AS A PROBLEM THAT NEEDS TO BE WORKED ON.

THIS GROUP, **THE AG CAREER AND FARM TRANSITION GROUP**  
CONVENED AT THE DEPT. OF AG, TRADE AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION, HAS OVER THE PAST YEAR, HAS DISCOVERED  
THAT FARM ENTRY EXIT IS ONLY PART OF THE PRODUCTION  
AGRICULTURE CHALLENGE. WHAT THE GROUP DISCOVERED  
WAS A NEED TO IDENTIFY A MORE HIGHLY DEFINED CAREER  
PATH IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE, PART OF WHICH COULD  
LEAD TO FARM BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.

AS PART OF THAT GROUP, I DEVELOPED THE CONCEPT OF THIS CAREER PATHWAY IN A **MODEL** OF AGRICULTURAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT. (I HAVE COPIES OF THAT PAPER FOR THOSE THAT MAY BE INTERESTED)

**WHY IS A CAREER PATHWAY IN AGRICULTURE IMPORTANT?**

BY DEFINING A CLEAR CAREER PATHWAY, POTENTIAL ENTRANTS INTO PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE AND THOSE WHO ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE WILL HAVE A MORE HIGHLY DEFINED “ROAD MAP” FOR ENTERING AND PROGRESSING THROUGH THEIR CHOSEN OPTION, INCLUDING FARM BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.

A KEY PART OF CREATING THIS CAREER OPPORTUNITY IS TO PROVIDE THE MEANS (INCLUDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES) FOR AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS TO ENTER AND THRIVE IN AN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS.



THE RED PROGRAM ALLOWS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY BY  
PROVIDING FUNDS FOR 1. PRE-BUSINESS PLANNING 2.  
FEASIBILITY STUDIES 3. BUSINESS START-UP MICRO-LOANS  
YOUR SUPPORT OF THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR THE  
RED PROGRAM WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD FOSTERING A  
NEW COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ONE OF OUR STATE'S  
LARGEST INDUSTRIES.

**THANK-YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION**

**ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?**



# The Case for a Career Path in Production Agriculture

Through the centuries, American agriculture developed as an industry around the concept of the "Spirit of the Pioneer". The noble notion of the "self-made man" carving a living from the land to provide for a family is deeply embedded in the American psyche. From the early years of colonial life to the modern ages of technological farming, there are certain elements of this rural/agricultural ethic which survive to this day.

To be sure, the American pioneering spirit pervades many other aspects of our lives in the U.S. For the sake of this discussion, we will distinguish production agriculture from others by calling this the *Agrarian Pioneering Spirit*. This "Agrarian Pioneering Spirit" is still evident today in farm families as they pursue the dream of pulling riches from the soil and maintaining their chosen way of life.

Epitomizing this notion was Thomas Jefferson who wrote: "Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous the most independent, the most virtuous..." Historian August Miller wrote: Agrarianism was the most significant force in his (Jefferson's) entire philosophy. As a farmer, Jefferson was anxious to preserve a pattern of civilization which was essentially agricultural...His vision of America was that of a large country in which every citizen would reside on his own farm and live off the products of his own land.

Unquestionably, the independent entrepreneurial farmer has been the leading force behind the building of arguably the best and most efficient agricultural production industry in the world. This allowed for the development of a vast agribusiness industry which when coupled with the production sector is still the largest contributor to the nations GNP.

This "Agrarian Pioneering Spirit" to which we in America silently adhere has both great strengths and weaknesses. As previously stated, it has been a major driving force in pushing agriculture forward in this country. On the other hand, it in many ways creates and sustains a *cultural bias* against systemic structures or common ways of doing things. This is especially a problem when farmers are faced with more pervasive challenges which cross local, regional, national and even international boundaries. These by nature are more sociological and "community" oriented issues which require collective thinking and collaborative action. Examples of these are: insuring affordable health insurance for farmers, changing milk marketing order inequity, developing new marketable products, finding profitable market niches and developing farm entry/exit options.

There is no argument that there is no substitute for a local farmer acting in good conscience with common sense, intelligence and "enlightened self-interest" to improve and expand the farm's competitive/economic position. At the same time, there are these pervasive issues which are beyond the reach of individuals to solve. Our

purpose here is not to expound in great detail on these, but to point to some ways in which we might improve upon the great foundation of strength we already have as we look to the future.

One of these “*beyond the reach of the individual farmer to solve*” issues is career pathways and transitions in agriculture. If production agriculture is to survive and thrive into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, among other things it must develop a clearer, more comprehensive system of career transition. In this paper, I will explain why career transition is one of the most significant issues farmers will deal with for the rest of this century and into the next.

So what is wrong then? Isn't a system that works this well worth leaving alone? If it isn't broke, why fix it? Why argue with success? The answer to these questions is not so much fixing history but looking after the needs of the future. In this next section, we will explore the reasons why this is such an important issue and why now.

## Career Pathways and Transitions

Career development in production agriculture has rarely surfaced as a great priority among the myriads of issues that must be faced to farm. At the extreme, it could be argued that farming as a career was not a career “choice” at all...it was something passed on, from one generation to the next. As Paul Bickford, Dairy Farmer from Ridgeway, Wisconsin, puts it, “Farming has always sort of been the “default occupation.” Default in the sense that it often was not purposefully chosen and prepared for and more often than not...inherited.

### The Problem

Some of the results of this “default” occupational choice with no clear career pathway are:

- An aging farm population (avg 55 yrs. in Wis.)
- High number of retirement-age farmers with few or no options to transfer ownership to younger farmers
- A “drying up” stream of new/younger beginning farmers entering the profession
- A critical shortage of skilled production agriculture labor

These and many other disturbing trends in agriculture indicate an emerging problem beginning to reach crisis proportions.

If we look deeper, we discover many driving forces at work in society today which point to a need to develop a coherent career transition system. The most significant of these are:

- ♦ Overcoming negative images cast upon farming as a career choice-the perception of “no opportunity”

- ♦ Farm production margins of profit continue to get narrower
- ♦ The increasing cost and sheer volume of capital needed to farm
- ♦ American society in general is becoming further removed from the land
- ♦ A relatively stable economy with low unemployment create more attractive career opportunities in the non-farm sector
- ♦ Equity-building options for aspiring farmers are limited, especially for those individuals who were not "born into" a farm estate arrangement

This leads us to the inevitable question: If there are barriers both real and imagined in farm career transition, where do we start to overcome this? My belief is the answer lies in working on putting in place the "fractured pieces" of the agricultural career transition puzzle. A good beginning is developing a **Career Path Model**.

## Career Paths

A career path can be defined as a *coherent sequence of educational, occupational and life experiences which contribute to one's ability to move from one occupational level to another.*

A production agriculture career path does exist. However, transitions and options within this career path are often undefined or unavailable. The farm business ownership option for instance (at least for Wisconsin), is still highly dependent on traditional family relationships; ie father passes the farm to son or daughter, brothers go into partnership, etc. Models for entrance into farming or farm estate transfer exist, but seem to be not universally known and alternative models tend to be "brokered" by individuals themselves.

The ultimate goal and main benefit for developing a production agriculture career model which would define career pathways is summed up:

**Ultimate Goal:** Defining and clarifying in the clearest terms possible the route one could take and alternate routes available to enter, progress, change career focus and exit production agriculture.

**Main Benefit:** The model would provide an invaluable "road map" for prospective and current agricultural workers to evaluate career options and grow in those chosen options.

## THE MODEL

The model represents a career continuum. A way to think about this career pathway is that it is a **personal career roadmap**. The map will be uniquely different for each individual, but will clearly lay out the optional destinations and routes to get there.

For simplicity, this model is divided into two unique sections or career life-cycle choices. Within these are several important stages or options. These are:

## **Pathway to Business Ownership**

1. **Entry-level occupational:** This is the most common agricultural career entrance point. In this phase a person is gaining basic education and/or experience in production agriculture techniques. Training occurs in such settings as agricultural education classrooms and laboratories in high school or in on-the-job experience.
2. **Technical/Experiential:** This phase continues the skill and professional development of the individual in agricultural careers. Common opportunities are educational programs in technical colleges, universities, private schools and/or more structured training through worksite experiences such as apprenticeships, mentorships, etc.
3. **Equity-building:** In this phase of career development a person has decided to move from pure employment to some type of ownership entry. The type of ownership varies, but equity-building dictates accumulating ownership share in agricultural assets. New skills need to be acquired in finances, record-keeping and general management.
4. **Farm Business Cycle:** Entering the Farm Business Cycle implies a person has now taken on some ownership interest of the farming enterprise. It is also assumed that because of this, increased management responsibility follows. This professional management position will now require skills in farm business arrangements & estate transfer, financial record-keeping, farm business analysis and employee management, etc.

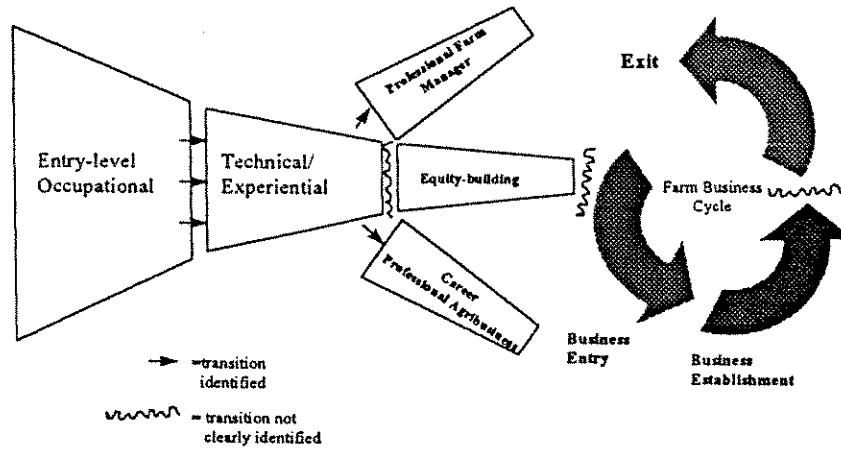
## **Pathway to (non-ownership) Professional Career**

Within the career model, two other career routes are available. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible career options. This is intended to aggregate many job titles into two discreet categories. Non-ownership paths are available for those who want to pursue professional production ag and agribusiness careers.

- ♦ **Professional Farm Manager:** Manage production enterprises for a farm owner
- ♦ **Professional Agribusiness:** Work as a professional employee of agricultural service and supply industry or other agriculturally affiliated agency

The agricultural career model is depicted below in graphical form:

# Agriculture Career Pathways



One needs to be reminded that this is only a theoretical model. This career pathway is only virtual-the pieces may be there or forms of a system seem in place, but it is not a working reality.

## Transitions

To understand how to make the career model a reality, one must study the transitions. Transitions in a career pathway are important because these are the places in which our societal support systems must be in place. Here is an example:

A recent high school graduate has just completed 4 years of agricultural education and wants to pursue agriculture as a career. An important transition support system for this student is **career guidance**, probably at the high school and technical college or university. Accurate and complete information about career options at this point is critical to this person's continued pursuit of a career goal.

Other transition areas between phases of career opportunity are not so clear. The model depicts these as "not clearly defined" transitions. These are especially problematic in the equity-building and ownership phases of the agricultural career path. Lack of a defined transition or support system inhibits new entrants into farm business and hampers those who wish to transition out of business.

## What Can be Done?

The good news is the problems are solvable. Obviously there are many challenges to building a coherent, seamless career transition system. Educational providers, agricultural government and service agencies and

others need to work together to fill in the gaps and put support systems in place to make this career pathway a reality. With a system such as this in place and clearly understood by all, agriculture will take one more important step toward creating a new professional agriculturist. It will also go a long way in promoting agriculture as a viable career choice for a wider group of potential entrants into the field.

**Bill Rockwell, Wisconsin Technical College System Board**

**3/26/97**





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Waukesha  
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**Superior/Douglas  
RSVP - Superior**  
(715) 394-4425

**Western Dairyland  
RSVP**  
Independence  
(715) 985-2391

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program provides opportunities for people age 55 and over to find meaningful involvement in their communities through volunteer service. RSVP involves older adults in service that matches their personal interests and utilizes their skills and lifelong experiences to benefit the entire community.

RSVP is part of the federal Corporation for National Service, National Senior Service Corps.

Wisconsin is served by 16 RSVP projects covering 28 counties. The Wisconsin Staff Association believes **RSVP needs to be a statewide program with a presence in each county.**

This program is important because:

1. RSVP volunteer services in the state of Wisconsin reduce the cost of providing human services to people of all ages. Currently over 10,000 volunteers provide over 1,200,000 hours of service each year. Independent Sector, a coalition of non-profit groups, estimates each hour of volunteer time is worth \$12.84 (1995). Thus, the monetary value of this service is over \$15 million.
2. In Wisconsin, there are 1,064,747 people age 55 and over. By the year 2000 that number is expected to increase 8% to 1,153,642 (Dept. of Administration, Bureau of Intergovernmental Relations, Demographic Services Center).
3. Where RSVP does not operate, an enormous amount of skill, knowledge and time in the retired population is untapped. The state has an opportunity to utilize a cost-effective program like RSVP to capitalize on this resource and to augment services not provided through federal, state and local government funds.
4. Productive engagement and strong social networks contribute to prolonged mental and physical health in older adults. A 25 year National Institute of Mental Health study found that "highly organized" activity is the single strongest predictor, other than not smoking, of longevity and vitality (Marc Freedman, Seniors in National and Community Service, April, 1994).
5. State and local governmental agencies are recognizing the value of older volunteers and utilizing them in rapidly increasing numbers. Examples of these agencies include: Department of Natural Resources, Motor Vehicle Department, municipal governments and police and sheriff's departments throughout the state.

For additional information on the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, contact one of the RSVP programs listed or RSVP Staff Association President Marti Sowka (715-346-1401).

# RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

## Request for \$610,000 Increase in State Supplemental Funding

(DHSS Statute 46.85)

January, 1997

### Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

#### Current Status of RSVP Projects

Number of Projects: 16 serving 28 counties in Wisconsin

Federal funding: \$671,180

State funding: \$413,854

Other funding: \$600,000

According to reports from Wisconsin's RSVP projects, additional state funding could generate 780 new volunteers and 100,000 additional hours of service. New or expanded intergenerational initiatives could include: school tutors, BABES (Beginning Alcohol and other Addictions Basic Education Studies) puppet program, and Triad (crime prevention). New or expanded long term care initiatives could include: peer counseling, telephone reassurance, guardianship, home delivered meals, friendly visiting and in-home chore service.

#### RSVP Additional Request

##### 1. Current Projects:

\$15,000 per project (16 projects)	\$240,000
\$ 7,500 per county in multi-county projects (4 projects, 3 counties each x \$22,500)	\$ 90,000

##### 2. Expansion-current projects into contiguous counties:

(long range goal of expansion to all counties)

10 counties added at cost of \$20,000 per county	\$200,000
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##### 3. Expansion-add 2 new projects at cost of \$40,000 each

	\$ 80,000
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**RSVP total: \$610,000**

MATT SPEECH TO Joint Finance Committee - MADISON, April 16, 1997

My name is Matt Ward. I am 18 years old. I live in Cottage Grove, I am a senior at Monona Grove High School.

My parents found out I was autistic when I was 18 months old. I said my first word and learned my name when I was 2. My favorite toy when I was 2 was a jar lid. I loved to spin them. I used to try to spin everything. I could even spin kleenex boxes.

I had a vocabulary of 30 words when I was 3. Half of those words were the names of numbers. I started using short sentences when I was 4. I asked my first question when I was 5.

In grade school I spent about half of my time in an ED-LD classroom and half the time with regular students. I usually had an Aid with me, especially in the regular classes. These Aids were very important to me. They helped me pay attention in class. Sometimes they took me out of class when I got upset. I don't think I would have been able to learn as well without my Aids.

I went to almost all regular classes in junior high and usually had an Aid with me. When things got rough, I went to a resource room.

All through high school I have gone to regular classes by myself without an Aid. I do have a resource room, but I don't use it very much. I do all my own homework.

I have trouble communicating, but I am very smart. My non-verbal IQ tested at 144 four years ago. When I took a test of visual/spatial skills when I was in junior high, I scored higher than the top of the high school scale.

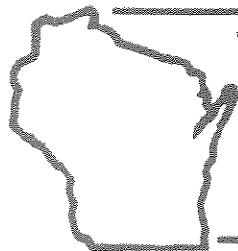
All through junior and senior high I have gotten mostly A's and B's on my report cards. I have a 3.23 overall grade point average for high school.

I am on the Math Team at Monona Grove High. Last year I took the American High School Mathematics Exam and got the 7<sup>th</sup> highest score in the state. I have been invited to join an honors calculus class at the UW this fall. It's a little easier for me to communicate with others about math because I understand it so well and like it so much. I don't look so different in a group where everyone has a pocket protector and a giant calculator in their back pocket.

I have problems with communication. My language is quite good, but conversation is stressful because it takes a lot of effort for me. Talking is easier if I can read the words. I have done a lot of work with speech and language teachers. This has helped me.

I still need some help to learn about the world, but I've come a long way. My Mom says the last thing she ever expected was to see me on the "Speaker's Circuit", but here I am.

Being autistic is part of who I am. Being able to talk to you like this makes me feel like I finally have a voice of my own. Remember me when you're making decisions about special education funding. Thank you for listening to me.



## WISCONSIN FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION

# WFCA

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April 16, 1997

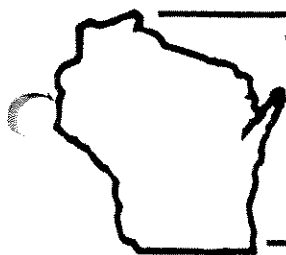
RE: Agrichemical Management Fund, DATCP Budget  
By: Betsy Ahner, Executive Director, WFCA

The Wisconsin Fertilizer and Chemical Association has worked closely with the DATCP to develop the revisions included in the state budget bill and fully supports all but one of them as proposed.

The governor's version of the budget includes one provision that we think needs to be changed. As the **industry** share of the money accumulates in the fund and is held by the department until reimbursements are approved, it earns interest. In the past this interest stayed in the fund, but the governor's budget removes it and transfers it to the general fund.

This is money coming from the farmers of Wisconsin and it should stay in the program to benefit them. Removing this money will mean that the fees this bill reduces, will have to be reinstated sooner and at a higher rate than they would if the estimated \$428,000 in interest for the biennium, is retained to fund the program.

One other point of interest. Several of you have asked if the savings realized by our members as a result of the two year moratorium on the fee surcharges will reach the farmers. I have discussed this with my board of directors and members and they assure me that they intend to pass the savings on to their customers. They have always included the 1.3% charge on sales as a line item on the bills that their customers pay, so there is an exact accounting of the money collected.



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## Agrichemical Clean-Up Program

The Governor's biennial budget contains a number of revisions to the ACCP that have been recommended by a DATCP committee which the WFCAsat on. In brief they include:

- [a] Money collected from Agrichemical Clean-Up Program surcharges will be segregated from the Agrichemical Management Program money and will be used only for clean-up activities.
- [b] The Governor recommends a two-year exemption from ACCP surcharge fees to spend down the high balance in the fund (estimated at \$8.6 million).
- [c] DATCP will be authorized to re-establish the surcharge fee in two years at an estimated 50% of current levels. A mechanism will be established to keep the fund balance from reaching a higher level than needed to operate the program.
- [d] Lapse \$2.7 million general purpose revenue from the continuing balance and reduce expenditure authority by \$600,000 over the biennium.
- [e] Eliminate deductible requirements for separate spill events and provide a lifetime deduction per site of \$3,000 for individuals and \$7,500 for licensed facilities and large businesses.
- [f] Eliminate reimbursement limits for separate spill events and replace them with a lifetime reimbursement cap of \$400,000 per site.
- [g] Establish an 80% state cost share for eligible expenses above the deductible, but below the lifetime cap of \$400,000.
- [h] Lower the threshold at which DATCP approval of work plans is required from \$20,000 to \$7,500.
- [i] Allow time spent by a responsible party on implementing a clean-up (not including management oversight) to be eligible for reimbursement.
- [j] Clarify the penalty provisions in the program to include any violation of the applicable statute or code, not only orders issued by the Department.



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Date: April 16, 1997

From: Reinhard Meihsner  
Manager, AM/FM/GIS Services

Re: Governor's Budget Bill  
Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB)

My name is Reinhard Meihsner. I'm representing Wisconsin Gas Company and I would like to take this opportunity to voice **objection to a policy change which has been included in the Governor's Budget. If passed, the Wisconsin Land Information Board would be eliminated and replaced with a Land Use Council. From what has been stated in the proposed budget, the goals and objectives of the Land Use Council would, in large part, duplicate what the Wisconsin Land Information Board has already gotten underway. While there is not an objection to creating a Land Use Council, it should not be done at the expense of the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB).**

As a user of land records and land information, elimination of the Wisconsin Land Information Board would have a damaging affect on a significant number of successful programs. For a variety of reasons, the Wisconsin Land Information Board should not be eliminated:

- After an incredible effort to get land modernization programs underway, elimination of the WLIB would have a severe impact on existing programs and put the program back into a study phase. Programs are already underway to improve the use of land information. This policy change would reverse that trend. This is a time when we need to get the most productivity from the private and public sector, not create more bureaucracy.
- **This is policy change which will have significant impact on a number of successful programs and should not be nested in the Governor's Budget!**
- There is not an objection to a Land Use Council, it just shouldn't be done at the expense of the Land Information Board.

**As a regular user of land information, it would be tragic if the successful programs which are now underway, were hampered by the elimination of the Wisconsin Land Information Board.**

April 16, 1997

Joint Finance Committee  
Budget Hearing  
Madison, WI

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Every day I wonder how I will be able to put myself through school: How will I pay for it? Where will that funding come from? My name is Lara Bjorkquist, and I am a first-year student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison but am originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin.

I am here speaking against the possibility for differential tuition on the University of Wisconsin campus. The potential tuition raises because of differential tuition are astronomical. As it is, I am forced to work 2 jobs during the summer in order to pay for this university, and am worried that with a tuition increase I will be forced to increase my hours worked during both the summer months as well as the school year.

Additionally, the lack of increased funding for academic advising on University of Wisconsin campuses is a concern of many. Currently, as a freshman, I am forced to wait hours in order to see my academic advisor, and there have been times when the only "advisor" I was able to convene with was another student. Apparently this practice is acceptable to the university, but I will not accept this as adequate. More advisors are needed. When further along in my studies, I will be seeing an advisor for my Political Science major. It turns out that there is only one advisor for all students in that discipline. This is troublesome because if academic advising is faulty, it could result in my having to stay another year at the university, thus paying an additional year of tuition merely due to glitches in my advising. The job of the advisor is to guide me with my graduation preparation, including the required courses in my major and concentration. I feel that one advisor is inadequate to help all 900 Political Science majors.

My brother, who recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin -- Madison, was unaware if he would actually graduate on time because of poor academic advising. It seemed that the advisor made an error in addition, and he was two credits away from the required amount for graduating. Luckily he was able to, independently, make up the credits; however, that is not an option for many students on the campus.

This poor advising service has been problematic for many people, and because of its importance in the welfare of education, it is necessary that this aspect of the budget be fully funded. I also urge you to re-think the ramifications of differential tuition on students who can barely pay their way through school now, and what a tuition hike of this nature would do to the educational quality of Wisconsin. I have always been proud to say I went to the University of Wisconsin, as many others are. Are you willing to be responsible for closing the door to education? I hope you will seriously consider what these points mean to students, and make wise, informed decisions on the affects of these elements to our future.

Sincerely,

*Lara Bjorkquist*

Lara Bjorkquist  
821 West Johnson Street  
404 Ewbank Sallery B  
Madison, WI 53706-1798



# **Testimony of the Madison Metropolitan School District**

## **Joint Finance Committee Hearing on Proposed 1997-99 State Budget Wednesday, April 16**

### **■ *Maintain the state's commitment to pay two-thirds of school costs***

- ◇ Keep the school aid appropriation sum sufficient
- ◇ Don't change the definition of two-thirds state support

### **■ *Maintain the workability of the revenue limit***

- ◇ Adjust allowable per student increase by a "school price index" - bring allowable increases under revenue cap more in line with QEO
- ◇ Create hold harmless provision for districts with declining enrollments

### **■ *Adequately fund the SAGE program so this promising class-size reduction experiment can be implemented as intended by the legislature***

- ◇ To fully fund SAGE, a \$2.9 million increase in '97-98 and an additional \$2.6 million in '98-99 is needed. This amounts to *two one-hundredths of 1 percent* (.02%) of the total state budget and is less than the proposed increase in the budget for lottery promotion.

### **■ *Make a good educational technology initiative better***

- ◇ Restore the \$5 million the legislature committed to the Pioneering Partners program so pending school technology grants can be funded
- ◇ Don't take money from school libraries and existing school technology programs to fund the new TEACH Wisconsin initiative
- ◇ Improve the formula used to distribute TEACH Wisconsin grants to school districts

### **■ *Remove policy items from the budget***

- ◇ Proposals relating to statewide public school choice and local school referenda deserve to be debated as separate bills

# **Alternative Formula for Distribution of TEACH Wisconsin Block Grants**

## **■ Per student payment based on district property values**

- ◆ Students in districts with property values below 75% of state average weighted as 3.25 students
- ◆ Students in districts with property values between 75% and 125% of state average weighted as 2.5 students
- ◆ Students in districts with property values between 125% and 175% of state average weighted as 1.75 students
- ◆ Students in districts with property values above 175% of state average weighted as 1.0 student

## **■ Eliminate \$5,000 flat grant to each school district**

## Support for RED and ADD grant funding increases

Thank you for allowing me to address your participants.

I am Paul Scharfman, owner and President of Specialty Cheese Company, Inc. Our firm owns three cheese plants in Dodge county, employs fifty people and takes milk from some sixty local dairy farms. We make refrigerated natural cheeses for the Hispanic, Arab and Kosher markets as well as traditional Brick and Muenster cheeses. In addition, we are now making a new form of cheese: shelf stable cheese snacks called "Just the Cheese". I am both a member of the Dairy 2020 Board and the recently renamed PATS (Program on Agricultural Technology Studies). For those of you who don't know, that makes me eligible for mud slinging from both the left and the right.

Our firm has used both the RED and ADD grant programs. We used the RED program to help finance a product quality study for our Hispanic cheeses before we introduced them to market in 1992. As a result of the study we were able to adjust our formulations and enter the market with what are still considered to be the best tasting Hispanic cheeses anywhere.

As founding president of the Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Institute, I used ADD grant funds to do market research. The research identified a dozen promising concepts that would be appropriate for the State's small cheese companies. Our "Just the Cheese" snacks are an outgrowth of one of those concepts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the State of Wisconsin has the opportunity to be the hotbed of innovation in the Dairy Industry worldwide. Some of you have heard me say that our challenge is not to beat the low price of California cheddar. Instead, our future lies in producing the largest number of the highest quality of specialty cheeses. We have the cheesemakers, the heritage, the high quality standards and the excellent milk supply needed to do so. The competition is not California. It is France. We should lead the world in specialty cheeses.

To do so, however, we must give our farmers and our innovators encouragement. Ten days ago I had a man by the name of Jack McCellan in

my office. He is a dairy farmer from California who sold his herd and wants to start a 1200 cow operation in Wisconsin. He's got a business plan. He's got experience. He needs to convince people to invest in his business. The only way to do so is to commission a feasibility study. That's what RED could do to help him.

What of the cheese innovators? We would like more ADD grant funding to work together to sell our cheeses. We've put together a booklet of our products, now we need to educate chefs and consumers. ADD funding could help us figure out how to do so.

But both programs are currently underfunded. We have the wonderful problem that both programs have too many good ideas coming at them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am here to support increasing the funding for RED and ADD in your budget deliberations.

Specialty Cheese Company

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#### Staff

ANNE ARNESEN, *Director*

NAN BRIEN, *Associate Director*

April 16, 1997

### Testimony Committee on Joint Finance by Anne Arnesen, Director

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families is a statewide, multi-issue child advocacy agency. As such there are a number of issues in the state budget that affect the well-being of children, but in the interest of time I will only address a few. I am submitting testimony with more detail on some.

First is W-2. The real issue for welfare reform is poverty. Research shows that there are often bad outcomes for children who grow up in poverty: juvenile delinquency, lack of school achievement, teen pregnancy etc. Welfare reform should be more than case load reduction and can provide us with the opportunity to address poverty if we do it right. It is an opportunity to build neighborhoods and lives if we provide support for families and children. Some good things are happening with Wisconsin's program, but as our W-2 paper "What Needs Fixing? The Remains of the Day." you could seize the opportunity to make W-2 profoundly better.

One of the most egregious deficits in the program is the elimination of education and training for welfare recipients. Education and training at the University and Voc Tech schools was not only an opportunity for people to get off welfare, more importantly, it took them out of poverty. This morning I was amazed to read in the Wall Street Journal that the Hudson Institute, which was one of the designers of W-2, is releasing a report on the anticipated shortage of highly skilled workers in this country. They propose that the U.S. will need to increase its supply of skilled workers partly by attracting more skilled immigrants and providing training to the unskilled. It seems it would be far more prudent for Wisconsin to provide the education and training to qualified W-2 recipients to develop the skilled Workforce which is available needed before we start recruiting immigrants.

Other W-2 Issues are included in an attachment.

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING ON 1997-99 STATE BUDGET

April 16, 1997

Testimony presented by  
Carol W. Medaris  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

There are several policy issues raised in the governor's proposed budget which relate to the implementation of Wisconsin Works. The following are suggested changes to make the program more workable and more fair to participants.

1. The bill specifies a dispute resolution process which falls far short of the current fair hearing process. (DWD Economic Support and Child Care #7.)<sup>1</sup> The bill expands the issues which may be reviewed, but provides a right only to a local agency review -- the same agency that made the initial decision. Participants may request a second-step review to the Department, but such a review need not be provided. Participants are thus denied the right to an impartial decision-maker, as well as other standard due process protections such as the right to testify under oath, to call witnesses, to question agency workers under oath, and to have an advocate present. Furthermore, the proposed procedure denies continuing benefits pending a hearing to those who appeal benefit cuts right away, as is the case now. In addition, retroactive benefits are denied participants who succeed in getting decisions reversed which unfairly denied them placement in an employment program.

All of these protections are guaranteed in a line of U.S. Supreme Court welfare cases going back to Goldberg v. Kelly. The current process not only works well, but is consistent with these due process protections, affording a fair, impartial, and consistent decision-making process no matter where in the state you reside.

In addition, current fair hearing procedures are retained for the Medical Assistance and Food Stamp programs. Since participants may face denials in W-2 work programs and Medical Assistance or Food Stamps simultaneously (for example for failure to cooperate with the child support program or ineligibility because of income or assets), setting up two systems will result in unnecessary duplication and may result in

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<sup>1</sup> Department and section numbers refer to sections of the Fiscal Bureau's Summary of the Governor's budget recommendations.

inconsistent decisions. W-2 work program participants should be afforded the same due process protections afforded beneficiaries of other government programs, such as Unemployment Compensation or Social Security and SSI.

2. The bill contains a new child support assignment requirement for those participating in W-2 work programs or receiving a child care subsidy. (DWD Economic Support and Child Care #4.) The language allows, but does not require, that assigned child support be redirected to recipients. This runs directly counter to legislative intent in the original bill last year that child care must go directly to recipients. Federal law requires such an assignment, but the state has received a waiver to redirect the funds to recipients except for families assigned to a control group whose child support would stay with the state. The bill language should be changed to require that all child support assigned to the state be redirected to the families except for those in the control group.
3. The bill raises the level of payments for those in Community Service Jobs and Transitional Placements to approximate new federal minimum wage rates, but without calling the grants "wages." (DWD Economic Support and Child Care #3.) The language should be changed to reference the minimum wage specifically in order that, with other minor changes, participants may qualify for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. This is particularly appropriate for those working in Community Service Jobs.

In addition, participants in Transitional Placements should be eligible for the same level of payments as those in Community Service Jobs. The differential in the current statute unfairly disadvantages families with disabled household members and may also run counter to protections afforded disabled persons by federal law.

4. The bill provides that Food Stamp funds would be used to subsidize W-2 trial jobs, without specifying that recipients would not be disadvantaged by this system. (DWD Economic Support and Child Care #25d.) The Department seems to intend that W-2 trial job workers would not be disadvantaged either in their rate of pay or in the amount of food stamp benefits provided as compared with a non-W-2 worker with the same family circumstances. That is not how the statutory section reads, however. The statute needs to be redrafted to make it clear that W-2 trial job participants will receive all the food stamp benefits to which their income entitles them in addition to full wages for the employment position.

5. The bill limits Learnfare sanctions to those under 18, and then limits child care while finishing high school to this age group, as well. (DWD Economic Support and Child Care #8.) Learnfare should finally be put to rest. It has no place in this "real world-real work" model. It has not been shown to have achieved any of its goals. And, since teens are not eligible for a cash grant anyway, retaining Learnfare can only discourage them from living at home. Their parents receive no financial incentive for keeping them at home and can only lose a portion of their W-2 wages if the teen fail to attend school regularly.

In addition, it makes no sense at all to deny child care to 18 and 19-year-olds in low-income families that are trying to finish a high school education. That should be changed to clearly provide eligibility for child care to all low-income teens while they are completing a high school degree.

6. The bill provides that SSI parents are only eligible for a \$77 per child monthly benefit. (DHFS Children and Family Services and Supportive Living #6.) This compares to \$215 per child provided to relatives caring for children. Unlike other families, SSI recipients are unlikely to have any means to supplement their income, since by definition they are incapable of substantial gainful employment. A disabled mother, with \$567 per month, is well below the poverty level. Adding a child or two at \$77 per month per child pushes her deeper into poverty. If her disability is truly permanent, she and her children are held to this subsistence level until the children are grown. There is no reason to provide less to these families than to families caring for relatives' children. It doesn't cost a disabled parent any less to raise children than it does other parents, nor should we doom families headed by disabled parents to greater poverty than all other families.



# EDITORIAL SECTION

The Capital Times ■ Thursday, May 9, 1996

■ Guest column

ANNE ARNESEN

## W-2 kills off a fair hearing

"Play fair!"

This is a parent's admonition to young children as they tussle over a coveted toy, but fairness is not just a kids game (or child's play), nor has it ever been.

Fair play is a concept we work hard to teach our kids — an American value central to our being.

As Americans we have never liked arbitrary decisions by despots, dictators, kings or government agencies. We have a culture that is strongly infused with the concept that one ought to get a fair hearing.

Citizens who believe the tax assessor has wrongly valued their property may appear before a board and appeal the assessment.

If one finds that Social Security benefits are wrong or one is denied a license to operate a business or drive a car, there is a process to protest the governmental decision.

One has recourse to a fair hearing. It's democracy at work.

Our quest to treat people fairly has also applied to the rules for poor people.

Under laws governing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), medical assistance and food stamps, a person has recourse to a fair hearing procedure if there is reason to believe one is being arbitrarily denied access to aid.

What does a fair hearing process involve?

Hearings are not very complex, lasting an average of only 20 to 50 minutes. For AFDC clients it means a state hearing officer takes sworn testimony from county workers and petitioners, examines the documents submitted by both parties and makes a decision based upon a complete record.

Disabled children who are de-

nied educational services also go through the same type of process. Most petitioners represent themselves, although they can request a lawyer. There is a 45-day limit for requesting a hearing. The system has never been clogged, but the process is there, if needed, and it is all part of playing fair.

Now along comes Wisconsin Works, W-2.

Like AFDC, government workers or private agency workers (under a government contract) will make a multitude of decisions about the provision of basic necessities of life for people who apply for the W-2 program — mostly single women with children.

Among the main decisions to be made: child care, health care, disability determinations and placement in a work category in order to be eligible for a grant.

Unlike AFDC, in W-2 there is no provision for a fair hearing.

What the Legislature adopted, after rejecting a fair hearing process, was a paper review of a worker's decision by the W-2 agency and the state agency (the new Department of Job Development) to see if the right law was applied.

Even this minimal process is provided only for work program decisions.

W-2's provisions are not a fair hearing. A true fair hearing occurs when the facts and evidence found through an investigation show that a client's claim is true or false. Quite a different process.

The leadership of the legislative Joint Finance Committee argued against an appeal process, claiming it would mire the W-2 system in red tape and overwhelm agencies with appeals. This rationale is astonishing.

We have had a fair hearing sys-

tem in place for years, and only a small percentage of decisions are appealed. In fact, in 1995 with over 60,000 families on AFDC, only 2,000 requests were received, half of which merited a hearing.

But the most serious issue is that poor people will be denied the right to a fair hearing now that W-2 has passed and there is no recourse for the poor.

The lack of a fair hearing in W-2 is exacerbated by the enormous discretion allocated to W-2 workers at the lowest level, financial employment planners.

Flexibility for financial employment planners to make decisions based on an individual's circumstances may be desirable, but it only works if there is recourse when a client believes she or he has been treated unfairly.

A financial employment planner, for instance, could require a woman to go into a community service job when she claims she must be in the transitional program to stay home with her child who has asthma and needs more medical supervision than a child care center can provide.

Or perhaps a woman misses work and is dropped from the program, but she claims her child care or transportation arrangements fell through. With no fair hearing process she has no way to make her case beyond the financial employment planner and the state department.

W-2 in Wisconsin is called a "work in progress." True progress will be achieved if a fair hearing process is adopted. Only then will Wisconsin be promoting fair play for all of its citizens ... not just the economically advantaged.

Anne Arnesen is director of Wisconsin Council on Children and Families Inc.

We have some serious concerns about two K-12 education proposals in the budget

Public school choice and youth options both threaten the financial stability of school districts already struggling under the tight revenue caps. Under the Governor's budget proposal, school districts will be required to pay the costs for students who choose to participate in the youth options program and public school choice, even though they may be attending a private school or taking a course for enjoyment rather than educational credits or attending a neighboring school district for reasons other than educational benefit. An Iowa Department of Education survey indicated that only nine percent of students chose a neighboring district for "educational benefits."

Districts cannot save dollars on the margin. In other words, if students leave a district through school choice or the youth options program, it is unlikely that the resident district can reduce its own costs proportionately because their enrollment will not be reduced in sufficient numbers to allow them to reduce their personnel costs.

Therefore, and most importantly, the costs of allowing students to exercise choice will be born by the resident district and the those students who continue to "choose" their home district. We should not be enacting public policy that has the potential to harm the education of the vast majority of our public school students.

Two issues in Juvenile Justice should be addressed. The transfer of the funding to counties for first time offenders is perplexing. The program was established as a line item on the recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Justice counties were demonstrating creative and effective programs. Now it has been consolidated into a prevention program in DHFS and is not necessarily directed at this needy population. While I support prevention this was never the intent of the program. I would urge you keep this program in the Division of Juvenile Corrections.

Finally, counties programs funded by Youth Aids are going to be severely compromised by the recommendation to provide no increase to their budgets to reflect the increased rates in correctional facilities as was the practice for years. The move represents a cost shifting to local taxpayers that ought to be avoided. The same argument can be made for the change in Community Aids. A reduction in funding and increased use of federal funds in the Community Aids programs seems to reflect a lack of state commitment to the human service program. This cost shifting to the counties represents a state backing away from its commitment to serve children and families.

We will be releasing a paper next week the elimination of state funding for immunizations. We look forward to the state's plan to insure that all children in Wisconsin have health insurance and access to services. We are second best in the country now, ranking only behind Minnesota in the percentage of children covered. We want to be best.